



PHOTO STAR

Models perform at a fashion show organised by Shapthahik 2000 at Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Centre in the city on Saturday.

## Pay salary arrears, bonus before Eid

Demand labour leaders

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Labour leaders of Bangladesh Garment Workers Unity Council (BGWUC) yesterday submitted memoranda to the concerned authorities demanding payment of current month's salary, Eid bonus, arrears and lifting of restriction on trade unionism, says a press release.

The leaders of BGWUC, a platform of 21 registered trade organisations of readymade garment (RMG) workers, handed over the memoranda to Labour Director Siraj Uddin and Chief Inspector of mills and factories Aminul Islam.

They urged authorities to pass an official order to BGMEA not to form workers' welfare committees at different RMG factories across the country defying Bangladesh Garment Workers Act-2006.

They demanded formation of the welfare committees under section 205 of the workers' act.

The leaders demanded strict monitoring by labour director and chief inspector so that RMG workers can get their full payment of Eid bonus and salary arrears before Eid.

They also demanded 50 percent dearness allowance (DA) since June last and declaration of a new wage board.

The memoranda said repression on RMG workers by some garment owners is creating bad reputation abroad which may have adverse impact on garment industry as the sector is completely dependent on foreign market situation.

The leaders demanded steps to save the sector by fulfilling the workers' demands.

## New Saudi rules during Hajj

UNB, Dhaka

Saudi Arabian government has asked Hajj pilgrims not to produce any type of electronic item or publish anything or distribute those materials in the country during Hajj season without approval from the committee concerned of Saudi Culture and Information Ministry.

In this regard, the Saudi Embassy in Dhaka recently told the foreign ministry about the order, said an official announcement yesterday.

In a letter to the foreign ministry, the Saudi authorities have requested to inform Bangladesh Hajj pilgrims about the change in rules.

## Listed criminal arrested in city

UNB, Dhaka

Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) arrested a listed criminal from Sayedabad bus terminal on Saturday night.

Acting on a tip-off, a team of Rab-10 raided the bus terminal and arrested Mehdi Hasan alias Meher, one of the close aides of top listed criminal of the old city Shahid alias dacoit Shahid, at about 9:30pm.

"Meher was wanted in a number of criminal cases, including murders," a Rab official said.

A firearm and a bullet were recovered from his possession. Meanwhile, another team of Rab arrested a female drug peddler along with huge amount of cannabis from her house at Konapara of Aminbagh of Jatrabari, the same night.

Rab-10 raided the house of Hena Begum, 45, at about 8:00pm after being informed that a huge quantity of hemp was stocked at Hena's house for sale.

They raided the house and arrested Hena for possessing around 1.5 kilograms of hemp.

Besides, another team of Rab-10 arrested Mohammad Zahid, 22, for keeping 60 bottles of phensidyl at his shop at Kadamasul mosque market in Sutrapur yesterday morning.

## Case against 700 RMG workers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police yesterday filed a case against around 500 to 700 unknown garment workers of Islam Dresses Ltd in connection with Saturday's violence, accusing them of being involved in vandalism and assault on policemen.

The police are yet to recover the revolver of a sub-inspector (SI) of Ramna Police Station that remained missing since Saturday evening. Intelligence hunt is on to recover the revolver.

Police feared that the missing firearm could go to any criminal group and they could misuse it.

Investigation Officer SI Tarikul Islam told The Daily Star that garment workers assaulted SI Habibur Rahman during the clash in front of the factory and the revolver went missing since then.

No accused was arrested until yesterday evening in this connection.

## Tk 30 lakh grant for Durga Puja

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government granted Tk 30 lakh from the Chief Adviser's Relief and Welfare Fund to celebrate this year's Durga Puja, the biggest religious festival of the Hindu community, beginning from October 5.

On the eve of the festival, trustees of Hindu Religious Welfare Trust yesterday held a meeting with Law and Religious

Affairs Adviser AF Hassan Arif at Ministry of Religious Affairs where he informed about the allocation.

"We decided that minimum Tk 500 to maximum Tk 3000 will be distributed to each puja mandaps in all districts. Disadvantage puja mandaps will get priority in the distribution of the fund," Law and Religious Affairs Adviser told the newsmen after the meeting.

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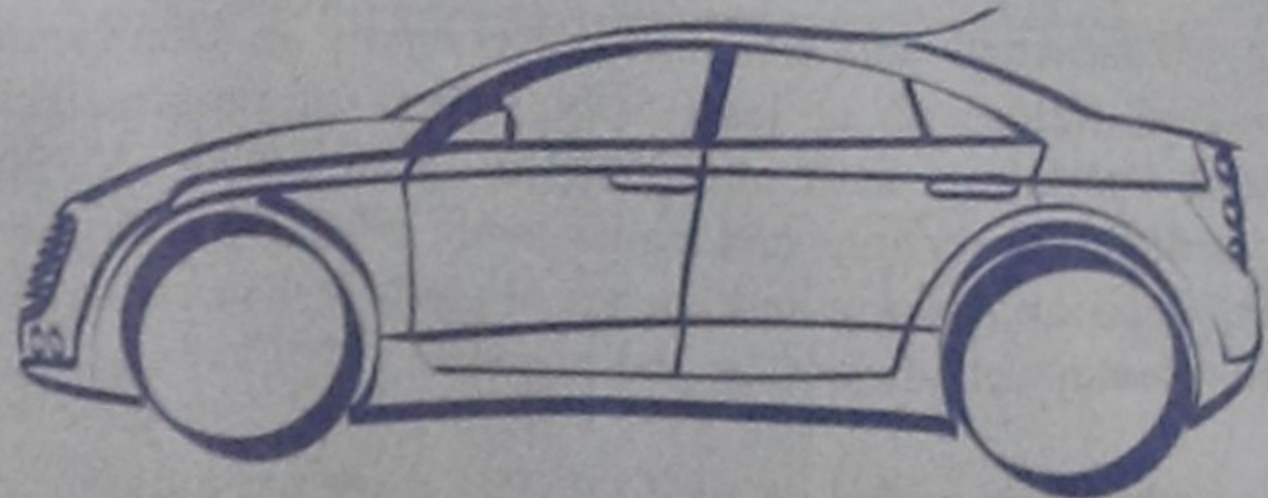
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